SEARCHLIGHT

THE ANTI-FASCIST MONTHLY **INCORPORATING CARF**

MAY 1986 No.131 70p

ITALIAN FASCIST DEPORTED

But the others are still on the loose . . .

INSIDE

Far right activity in Bradford and Leeds. . . Tory Party tolerates 'radical right' domination of FCS. . . French elections examined. . .

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May 1986 No.131

Published by Searchlight Publishing Ltd.,
37B New Cavendish Street,
LONDON W1M 8JR.
01-928 9801
ISSN 0262-4591

Printed by The Russell Press Ltd.,
45 Gamble Street,
Forest Road West,
Nottingham.

Sales and circulation enquiries: 0663 43599

Editorial

THE STRATEGY OF TENSION

Recent events in Northern Ireland have demonstrated the current violent inclinations of the National Front upon which we have laid heavy emphasis ever since the disciples of the 'Third Position' seized control of the party two years ago.

The Front, of course, has throughout its twenty year history been more than prepared to use violence in seeking its goals. But what before was relatively more sporadic and (usually) publicly disowned, has become elevated into the creed of the 'political soldier' for whom violent revolution is the prerequisite of establishing a white folk-state. And firmly underpinning this is the idea that the democratic state has to be destabilised by the activities of 'political soldiers'.

How else can we explain the peculiar turn which Front policy on Northern Ireland has taken. As we point out in 'What Their Papers Say' (p7), their recent call for independence for Ulster flies in the face not only of their previous commitment to integration, but also of thier declared policies on Welsh and Scottish nationalism, to which they are stongly opposed. It seems they are only committed to the unity of the United Kingdom when it suits them.

In the case of Northern Ireland, the reason for this quickly becomes clear: they are anxious to jump on the destabilising bandwagon of the armed gangs of loyalist thugs who are currently terrorising Catholic communities and RUC members in their own.

The Front is now pouring what resources it has at its disposal into backing up this campaign of violence. As well as large quantities of printed propaganda, it has been shipping members across the water to join the loyalist gangs on the streets, a development evidenced by the arrest and injury of its own members during loyalist disturbances.

Even as *Searchlight* goes to press, new facts are emerging which underline the extent to which the NF is directly promoting disorder and intimidation in the province. Next month, we will be presenting a major study of this latest phase in the 'Strategy of Tension' which the Front seems to have learned so well from its Italian 'Third Position' mentors.

MAURICE LUDMER

It was five years ago this month that *Searchlight* suffered the grievous loss of our founder and editor, Maurice Ludmer. He died of a heart attack at the tragically young age of 54. We remember him with great respect, admiration and love. His death is still, for us, an irreplaceable loss but again, five years on, we rededicate ourselves to making sure that it is a loss from which those we oppose can take no comfort.

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MPs demand answers on murder plot

Labour MPs pressing the government for information about the abortive plot to kidnap and kill *Searchlight* journalist Gerry Gable have been fobbed off with a series of unsatisfactory replies.

The plot, revealed in last month's *Searchlight*, was prompted by investigations into the activities of far right Tory MPs. One of these asked a private security firm to deal with Gable, and a second firm was involved on a sub contract basis. An elaborate scheme to abduct, interrogate and kill him was already in progress when *Searchlight* obtained details of the conspiracy. These were conveyed to the authorities, and the Prime Minister was told over a year ago.

The MP involved has not yet been named, but Labour front bench Home Affairs spokesman Alf Dubs has been pressing Mrs Thatcher for details. On 8 April he asked if she would refer the matter to the Security Commission. She said simply "No".

Mr Dubs also asked the Attorney General if he would prosecute those involved. He was told that "the facts alleged did not disclose the commission of any criminal offence"; a bizarre observation in the face of the detailed testimony of a former employee of one of the security firms involved.

And when Mr Dubs asked Giles Shaw, Secretary of State at the Home Office, to make a statement about police protection offered to Gerry Gable, he received a very guardedly phrased answer: "In the light of police investigations it was not considered necessary to provide him with personal protection".

This is a peculiar interpretation of what happened: Gable was offered special arrangements for his protection by the police. He declined a positive offer of personal protection because he felt that his work as a journalist might be impaired.

Labour MPs are determined that the government's stonewalling tactics will not prevent them from getting to the bottom of this affair and will be pressing further in coming weeks. Already, defence spokesman Kevin McNamara is demanding clarification from the Defence Minister about the alleged involvement of a serving Royal Marine Commando Warrant Officer.

Italian fascist deported

AN Italian right-winger accused of terrorist offences has been extradited from Britain.

Serena Depisa, aged 21, was flown out of London accompanied by police officers after withdrawing an appeal against an extradition order made earlier by a British court.

Depisa was arrested after giving herself up at a London police station a year ago. Following a request from Italian police, British special branch officers raided the homes of other Italian fugitives in London where she was known to have been hiding. They could not find her, but two days later she gave herself up.

In Italy she is wanted for her alleged involvement in an armed robbery in Rome in 1982 when, police say, she threw a hand grenade into a bank.

She arrived in Britain around Xmas 1984 and stayed at the home of Massimo and Marinella Morsello, both convicted last year for terrorist offences connected with the Armed Revolutionary Nuclei (NAR). A Rome court sentenced them, *in absentia*, to lengthy terms of imprisonment.

Later, remanded on bail during her extradition trial, she stayed in Notting Hill with Marcello de Angelis, another convicted NAR terrorist. She was released on bail from custody in Holloway prison after giving birth to a child.

The collapse of other extradition cases involving Italian fascists has led directly to recent moves to tighten up the extradition treaty between Italy and the UK and introduce amendments to the Criminal Justice Act which would make extradition easier. Contrary to reports, however, these Moves have no bearing on the Depisa case, and will not take effect until Parliament has ratified the necessary changes. She was sent back following her unexplained decision to withdraw her appeal against extradition.

Race theorist rejected

GLASGOW University has rejected funding for a professorial chair from a man long associated with racist causes.

Following an article in *Searchlight* (129), detailing the background of Lt Col Robert Gayre of Gayre, the university court decided not to accept his gift of £100,000 to establish a chair in Scottish literature and returned the money to him.

Gayre has been associated with right-wing groups like WISE, the Racial Preservation Society and the pro-nazi Northern League. He has been making regular gifts since 1980 and the £100,000 accumulated fund would have been matched by a similar sum from the university.

After *Searchlight*'s article, the Glasgow branch of the Association of University Teachers announced they would oppose the benefaction because of Gayre's "unacceptable associations". He is also honorary editor of *Mankind Quarterly*, a journal devoted to the race question, which he edited from 1960 to 1978. He recruited to its editorial board Professor Verschaur of Munster, who had supervised the death camp 'medical experiments' of the Auschwitz 'Angel of Death' Josef Mengele.

Clearly angry that he had been rejected by the university, Gayre declared that he had been the victim of a *Searchlight*-sponsored 'smear campaign'.

NF takes part in Loyalist rioting

The existence of links between the National Front and the Ulster paramilitary organisations, reported in the last issue of *Searchlight*, has been forcefully confirmed by events in the last few weeks.

Loyalist groups held a spontaneous parade through Portadown in the middle of the night led by Ian Paisley, in defiance of a Government ban imposed to protect the Catholic population and because of fears of a repeat of the violence of last year's parade.

When dawn broke, the army and police found themselves confronting a large mob of local yobs reinforced by dozens of National Front members from Northern Ireland and Britain.

In the hours that followed, both sides suffered many casualties. It needed the army to ensure the safety of RUC wounded on the way to hospital after even ambulances were attacked by the stone-throwing mob.

The RUC Chief Constable, Sir John Hermon, said he had hard intelligence that para-militaries and others had plotted to cause violence throughout Northern Ireland if they succeeded in Portadown. Overnight police raids on UDA leaders put a stop to their plans.

NF members from Britain also took part in a protest against a St Patrick's Day parade in Lurgan, Co Armagh. Extremist Northern Ireland councillor George Seawright was due to join the NF demonstration.

In the week following the Portadown riot, the RUC came under further attack from the newly emergent combined force of nazis and Protestant extremists. And Catholic schools, churches and homes have been set ablaze all over the province.

That the National Front's leading officials were involved was plain from the fact that the Front's new headquarters in Norwich was unable to open the day after the Portadown riot because of the number of casualties members had suffered in Ireland. One of the top men at the Front headquarters is John Field, who has already been named in *Searchlight* as one of the leading liaison officers with the UDA.

Fears are growing that if the UDA spreads its action to mainland Britain, the NF will be in the forefront of its operations.

UVF killer surfaces in Britain

THE loyalist supergrass whose arrest in Britain on armed robbery charges has thrown the legal authorities into a spin, was formerly involved in trying to link up loyalist terrorists with fascist groups in Belgium.

Joseph Bennett, a self-confessed Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) killer, gave evidence three years ago which sent fourteen other UVF terrorists to gaol for a total of 200 years and two life sentences. They were convicted on 45 charges of murder, conspiracy to import weapons and membership of an illegal organisation.

Bennett was rewarded by the security forces with a new identity and new life on the British mainland. But when he was recently arrested in the midlands on armed robbery charges, police found a number of weapons which had been licensed by police in Northern Ireland. Given his completely new identity it was some time before they established that the man was Bennett, and they have been at something of a loss ever since to know how to proceed with the prosecution.

During the 1983 trial, Bennett revealed that he and another UVF leader, John Irvine, had travelled to Belgium to meet leaders of the nazi VMO (Flemish Militant Order) at a cafe run by VMO deputy leader Bert Eriksson. The VMO was asking that in return for explosives and guns, which they could provide, the UVF should start attacking Jewish targets on the mainland. The deal fell through when the UVF arranged an alternative supply of weapons from the United States, but VMO members were nevertheless trained by loyalist para-militaries in Belfast. One of their instructors was John Irvine, who travelled to Belgium with Bennett.

Police swoop on soccer thugs

WHILE police raids to smash organised football violence were uncovering yet more evidence of National Front involvement in hooliganism at football grounds, the Front itself was persisting with the lie that its members have nothing to do with such activities.

After weeks of planning, and surveillance of known London football thugs at away matches, police raided seven addresses in the capital in late March and recovered a staggering arsenal of weapons. They included a crossbow, a spiked ball and chain, knives and sharpened knuckle dusters. When the weapons went on display, the police revealed that a large quantity of NF literature and propaganda had also been found at the same addresses.

Seven men now face charges, some arising out of alleged incidents of planned violence at away matches in Birmingham and Liverpool.

And, within days, the Front's Blackburn organiser, John Ellison, was gaoled for six years for unlawfully killing a Carlisle fan with a 7lb lump of stone at an away game in Carlisle at Xmas 1984.

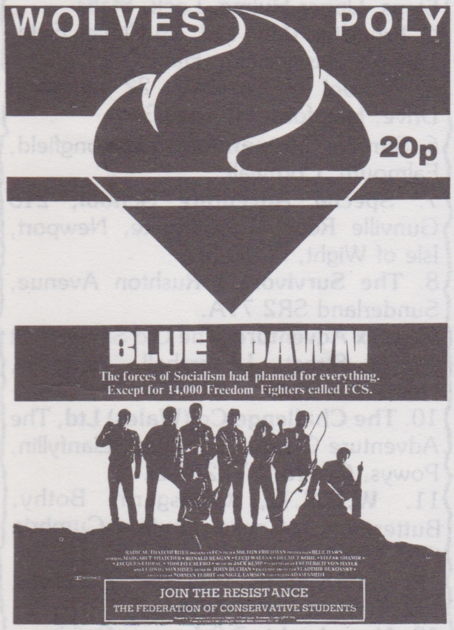
Even so, the NF is still brazenly persisting that its members are not involved. The latest issue of *National Front News*, under the headline 'Nailing the Media Lies' claims that the Popplewell Report, into football violence and the Bradford stadium fire, absolved them from any blame. In fact, it said, somewhat in contradiction to the evidence, that there was no direct evidence of their involvement.

Birmingham NF organiser Norman Tomkinson who was helped to arrange coaches for busloads of Birmingham NF thugs to be shipped to games all over the country told local reporters that "we don't have anything to do with soccer violence". The 'League of Louts', published in the Young NF paper *Bulldog*, where NF units vied with each other for the title of the most unruly club supporters, he described as "a bit of a joke".

FCS WETS EVAPORATE

This year's annual conference of the Federation of Conservative Students took place between 2 and 4 April in Scarborough. It was a far more tranquil affair than last year's conference which ended in uproar following rowdy behaviour and the promise of suspensions, reorganisation and expulsions from then Party chairman John Selwyn Gummer.

The conference underlined the fact that the Party hierarchy was not only prepared to tolerate the extremist position of the Federation but welcomed it.



Mark MacGregor (top right) and Douglas Smith (below right) current and ex-chairman of FCS respectively. Above: the Wolverhampton Polytechnic FCS rag, and to its right a sample of the contents.

In his opening remarks, outgoing Chairman Mark MacGregor said "if anyone had told me a year ago that I would still be here as chairman and that this national committee would still be in place leading this conference here today, I would have said that they were in need of urgent medical attention".

MacGregor gloated that all the individuals accused of rowdy behaviour and "factional intimidation" in an official Conservative Party enquiry had been cleared, and a proposal to suspend the Ulster and Scottish FCS organisations had been dropped.

Nevertheless, in a taped message to the conference, Party Chairman Norman Tebbit issued a strong warning that the events of last year's conference should not be repeated. "If we fight each other", he said, "then our message will never be heard above the squabbling and yelling of competing factions".

This message, together with the fact that the controlling 'libertarian' faction had a clearly overwhelming majority of the conference delegates, meant that the conference had a much more 'united' feel than last year. Outright opponents of the libertarian leadership, the so-called wets, had fewer than ten per cent of the delegates, concentrated mainly in the delegations from Oxford, Cambridge and Cardiff universities.

Most of the criticism, some of it quite bitter, came from a larger group of delegates who, whilst sharing most of the libertarian's policy positions, complained that the leadership had been disloyal to Thatcher and Tebbit by publicly opposing them on a number of issues, most importantly Northern Ireland, where the FCS leadership had openly supported the Unionist extremists.

Airborne Ranger

Officer: I wanna be an airborne ranger!
Men; I wanna be an airborne ranger!
Officer: I wanna lead a life of danger!
Men: I wanna lead a life of danger!

I wanna go to Iran (Rpt.)
I wanna kill an Iranian (Rpt.)

I wanna go to Vietnam (Rpt.)
I wanna kill the Vietcong (Rpt.)

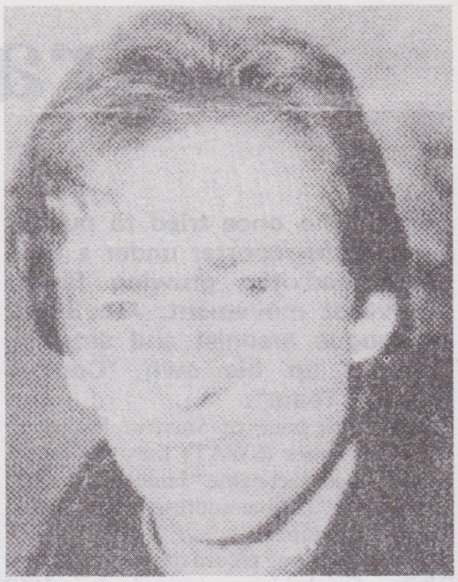
I wanna defoliate the forest there (Rpt.)
Coz I'm an American and I don't care (Rpt)

I wanna go to Greenham Common (Rpt.)
I wanna kill a peace woman (Rpt.)

1-2-3-4 Sound Off! 3-4 !

The libertarian leadership made no apology for this. They said that the role of the FCS was to promote radical policies within the Conservative Party, through inner-party debate and 'education'.

David Hoile, outgoing vice-chair in charge of FCS's overseas links including ultra-right American groups and Third World terrorists including UNITA in Angola and the Contras in Nicaragua, was particularly unabashed about the Federation's disagreement with the party.



Asked if he agreed with Sir Geoffrey Howe's call for Nelson Mandela to be released from Roben Island, Hoile said that he did not and, further, the call exposed a "contradiction" in the party's stance on foreign affairs. FCS would be lobbying, he said, to commit the party to support anti-communist guerillas the world over. When criticised for embarrassing the party by posing for photos with Nicaraguan Contras under an official Conservative Party flag and carrying arms, Hoile was defended by Mark Holland, student organiser of Conservative Friends of Israel, who said that "many members of my association (Hammersmith and West London College of HE) have carried arms in the Lebanon". Questioned about this, Holland refused to give further details.

In a keynote speech Mark Bercow, successful libertarian candidate for national chairman, admitted "yes, let's be candid, we do disagree with large areas of party policy. But remember we are aiming to change government policy. That's what makes political activity worthwhile. Who would have imagined that Thatcher's radical ideas of 15 years ago would today be policy. And in fifteen years from now our ideas will be policy. We must create a rachet effect that will keep our country safe from socialism forever".

Mark MacGregor announced the publication of a draft FCS manifesto for the next general election called "we the people", based on FCS conference policy since the 'libertarian revolution'. Describing it as 'radical conservative' he implied that the party hierarchy agreed with much of it and would incorporate some of the policies in the next official Conservative manifesto.

ARSON . . . SATANISM . . . SURVIVIALISM

Violent nazi runs combat training group

A nazi who once tried to push a *Searchlight* reporter under a train has joined the growing fascist survivalist movement. Joe Short, synagogue arsonist and satanist, has set up his own "Combat Training Team".

The April issue of *Survival Weaponry and Techniques* (SWAT) lists this outfit, giving the contact name "James C. Shortt", at Joe Short's home address, 49 Avondale Road, Croydon.

Short has a long record of violent nazism. While a Cambridge undergraduate in 1969 he was convicted of starting a fire at a Sheffield synagogue.

At the time he was the NF's student organiser, but on the night of the fire he had attended a meeting addressed by British Movement leader Colin Jordan. Martin Webster and other Front officials made sure that Short was swiftly booted out, in an attempt to give the recently formed party a clean image.

Satanist

Short, with the help of some of his tutors, got a non-custodial sentence and was allowed to complete his studies.

He was soon back in business with Leeds nazi, Eddy Morrison. Together with satanist cat-strangler Dave Myatt they set up the National Democratic Freedom Movement. It soon became noted for its violence.

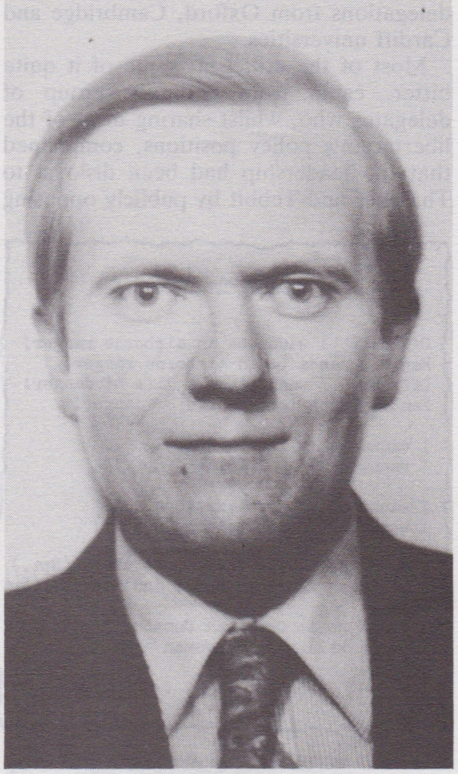
Short then infiltrated a trade union in the Midlands and became a union official. Soon afterwards *Searchlight* blew the whistle on him.

Now deeply involved in Column 88, he moved to London and became an accountant. He fled after a second clash with *Searchlight*.

But by the late 1970s he was back — this time as a member of the Liberal Party in Croydon. Short played an important part in the successful campaign to elect Peter Pitt to Parliament for the Liberals and as a result was adopted as a Liberal candidate for the local council.

This time he was exposed after *Searchlight* mole Ray Hill found out about him through his involvement with John Tyndall who was at the time trying to set up the British National Party.

Within hours Short was thrown out of the Liberal Party and Liberals withdrew their support for him at the council elections three days later.



Arsonist and satanist Joe Short

Recently Short has become a computer expert and a close associate of Tony East (aka Lecomber) who is currently awaiting trial on charges of setting off a bomb and possession of grenades, detonators and petrol bombs.

Death dealers

Another recent issue of SWAT contains a new advertisement for Timothy Danvers' Soldier of Fortune shop. Alongside a list of paramilitary equipment, Danvers advertises several books. These include a full and unexpurgated version of Hitler's *Mein Kampf*.

Also on offer are books entitled *Incendiaries*, *Destruction by Demolition*, *Incendiaries and Sabotage* and *Two-component High Explosive Mixtures*, and even *The Death Dealers' Manual* and *The Anarchist Cookbook*.

Although the Director of Public Prosecutions has passed to the police complaints about Danvers' sales techniques, police action appears to be proceeding at a snail's pace.

1. **South Angus Survival,** 43 Ogilivy Place, Arbroath, Angus DD11 4DF.
2. **Breakaway,** Mick Tyler, 17 Hugh Thomas Ave, Holmer, Hereford HR4 9RB.
3. **Spartan Survival,** The Barn, Eleven Steps, Upper Hulme, Leek, Staffs.
4. **Frontline (UK) Ltd,** 25 Clover Field. Lychpit, Basingstoke, Hants.
5. **School of Survival,** 22 Langland Drive, Hereford, HR4 0QG.
6. **Survive International,** 131 Longfield, Falmouth, Cornwall.
7. **Special Adventure School,** 215 Gunville Road, Carisbrooke, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5LS.
8. **The Survivor,** 1 Rushton Avenue, Sunderland SR2 7TA.
9. **Apex Adventure,** The Old Surgery, St James Street, Ludershall, Andover, Hants.
10. **The Challenge Co (Wales) Ltd,** The Adventure Centre, Y Dolydd, Llanfyllin, Powys, Cymru, SY22 5LD.
11. **W.E.S.T.,** Gatesgarth Bothy, Buttermere, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 9XA.
12. **Survi Camps,** P.O. Box 2, Cowes, Isle of Wight PO31 8LH.
13. **Yamabushi,** 7-9 Lupton Buildings, Whingate Junction, Leeds.
14. **Survival Adventure School,** 46 Lloyd Goring Close, Angmering, Sussex BN16 4LQ.
15. **Survival Aids Ltd,** Morland, Penrith, Cumbria CA10 3AZ.
16. **Combat Training Team,** James C. Shortt, 49 Avondale Road, South Croydon, CR2 6JE.
17. **ECTT,** Unit FF4, New Buildings, Price Street, Birmingham, B4 6JZ.
18. **Escape & Evasion Advex.** (tel: 01-409 0766)
19. **Survival Skills,** Jim Aitken, West End Cottage, Star of Markinch, Fife.
20. **W.E.S.T. (SW),** Arrina, Shieldaign Strathcarron, IV54 8XU.
21. **Meridian Expedition,** 4 Candacraig Square, Candacraig Estate, Strathdon, Aberdeenshire.
22. **Combat Survival School,** PO Box HP18, Leeds L56 3PR.

Survival School Directory from the April 1986 issue of *Survival Weaponry and Techniques*, said to be "accurate as at February 1986"

WHAT THEIR PAPERS SAY

A different bag of Armalites . . .

The latest batch of National Front publications shows the party's continuing preoccupation with Northern Ireland. The cover of March's *Nationalism Today* bears the symbol of the Ulster Loyalists, with the stark headline 'Ulster Must Fight'. *National Front News* announces at the top of its front page: "As the IRA march through the streets of London, gloating over their bombings, only the NF turned out to protest". These two familiar NF publications are joined by a new addition to the unwelcome literature of fascism: *British Ulsterman*.

It's not that the long-standing obsessions with skin colour and Jewish conspiracies have been totally neglected. The inside pages of *National Front News* and *Nationalism Today*, like dustbins awaiting collection, are full of their usual garbage. *National Front News* contains stale and rotting myths about muggers, rioters and rapists, all with the implication that it is only those with dark skins who commit such illegalities.

There is one curiosity in this month's regular sackful of racism. *Nationalism Today* has found a black to admire. There is an article singing the praises of the American Muslim leader, Louis Farrakhan. In particular, two of Mr Farrakhan's ideas have caught the fancy of the NF. Firstly, he supports "the separation of the races". As *Nationalism Today* puts it, "Farrakhan's long-term aim is the separation of the races and the creation of an all-Black nation within the United States".

The second of Mr Farrakhan's themes to gladden the hearts of the editors of *Nationalism Today* is, of course, anti-semitism. *Nationalism Today* reproduces with approval Mr Farakhan's views on Hitler and "the power of the Jews". And, more than anything, this leads *Nationalism Today* to the unusual position of recommending a non-white political leader: "The thought of anybody — Black or White — exposing Jewish power and demanding racial separation and racial freedom is an horrific challenge to the 'Powers That Be'":

> "Not surprisingly, Farrakhan has friends in the White racialist movement and the Arab world. Both the Ku Klux Klan and Colonel Gadaffi have sent him donations".

Elsewhere, *Nationalism Today* goes about its usual business of garbage collection. One curious piece alleges that black people in Britain are making common cause with the IRA: "There can be no doubt that the Blacks, Asians and IRA are working very closely together". *Nationalism Today*, with fine disregard for logical consistency, contradicts its own idea that Britain's Blacks are flocking to Mr Farrakhan, with two questions. It concludes with two rhetorical questions: "How long will it be before the IRA and Immigrants establish a formal link? And how long will it take for Ulster's violence to fully spill over onto the Mainland?".

This image of a joint IRA/Black alliance (no doubt with a controlling Jewish interest) is being raised to justify the main theme of the current publications of the National Front: the NF has a major role to play in the situation in Northern Ireland.

Brixton, Toxteth and Chelsea Football Ground might all provide opportunities for a good punch-up, but the real action is over the water in Northern Ireland. That's where the guns are. And wherever violent trouble arises, you can be sure that the NF will be there trying to add its fair-skinned, blue-eyed tuppenceworth.

The headline over the editorial of *Nationalism Today* sets the tone: "Ulster Must Fight". One can hear the sound of white palms being gleefully rubbed together, before the keys of the editorial typewriter are excitedly struck: "There can be little doubt that 1986 will be a momentous year for Ulster: threatened by Dublin aggression and Westminster betrayal, Ulster has a simple choice — fight back or die".

Uprising

A long article by Nick Griffin outlines "The NF Solution". The Protestants in Northern Ireland must declare independence: "The people of Ulster have finally been brought to the brink of open uprising . . . against the British Establishment which has permitted them to do so and embarked on a shameless policy of treason and betrayal". With the Protestant para-militaries preparing for a fight with the British government, this is just the unstable situation which the NF has been hoping for:

> "Since our aim is the overthrow of the Establishment, we must seek a Revolution. And the situation in Ulster is fast becoming revolutionary. If things develop as they easily could, and if we influence them as easily as we should, then our British Revolution will start in Ulster . . . The present situation in Ulster represents the best opportunity for a genuine National revolution anywhere in Europe. History beckons us, we must not turn our backs".

There follows some curious arguments which violently assault the sense of logic. The NF has long championed the integrity of the United Kingdom — Welsh and Scottish nationalists have in the past been criticised for threatening the unity of the British racial Folk-State. But recommending the Ulster Unionists to split away from Britain is very different. Absolutely so. Quite a different bag of Armalites.

Of course, the NF has never believed that logical consistency should impede the prospect of violent mischief. *British Ulsterman* is a two page broad sheet put out by the National Front (expensive even at the price of 5p). It carries on with the UDI theme: "To survive Ulster has to declare UDI" and, therefore, "the National Front says: INDEPENDENCE FOR ULSTER!".

This menacing broadcast carries news about NF support in Northern Ireland. The Belfast branch, headed by Jim Morrison and Andy McLorie, is the centre of activities. There is also a branch in Larne, led by Andy White. Plans are afoot to build upon support in Ballymena, Lurgan and Portadown, although, at present, there are not quite enough supporters to form proper branches.

British Ulsterman gives a clue about the role the NF sees for itself in the Loyalist cause: "Some Loyalists are now talking in terms of an Operation UK — whereby the Mainland would be saturated with Loyalist propaganda". The NF questions the Loyalists' ability to do this effectively: "Quite frankly, the Mainland isn't interested in the exploits of King William of Orange". Therefore, the NF is ready to lend a hand: "The National Front has spearheaded Operation UK with this issue of *British Ulsterman*". Interested readers can fill in a form, in order to receive "a mass of Loyalist propaganda".

As *National Front News* admits, some members of the National Front hold dual membership with the paramilitary Ulster Defence Association. And the NF is offering its services to help distribute the mass of Loyalist propaganda. Not all NF members will be content to be propagandists. Others will demand a more active role. The NF, throughout its nineteen year history, has always recruited more than its fair share of violent types, who twitch excitedly at the mention of guns, bombs and the spilling of racial blood.

Louis Farrakhan — a man with friends in strange places

RECAP: An A-Z of who's who on the far right

R CONTINUED

Robert Relf

Relf, Robert

Robert Relf first shot to national prominence in 1976, when he erected a sign outside his Leamington Spa home, advertising it for sale to an English family only. Jailed under the Race Relations Act, Relf was able to pose as an ordinary white Englishman, persecuted by the wicked cosmopolitan establishment. In fact, his career as a racialist agitator and provocateur stretched back to 1962, when he joined Colin Jordan's National Socialist Movement. He had been convicted for daubing Warwick University with racist slogans, and was jailed in the mid-60s following his setting up of a British branch of the Ku Klux Klan. Following his "for sale to English family" stunt, he went on hunger strike, was released, and, having flirted with Michael McLaughlin's British Movement, decided to nail his colours to the National Front mast. Three years later, he was in jail again, sentenced to 15 months, again for Race Relations Act offences. In 1981, Relf was part of an ill-starred initiative to unify the then fragmenting Ultra-Right under the banner of the "White Nationalist Crusade"; at the same time, he issued the leaflet that attracted young white racists to enter Southall for the "Oi" music gig that provoked the July 1981 Southall "riot". Earlier that year, police had found copies of the violently anti-semitic "Stormer" comic (based on Julius Streicher's notorious nazi *Sturmer*) in his house. His attempt to found a "White Power Movement" met with little success, and he was once again convicted in November 1982, this time for sending offensive cards to the Queen and Prince Charles. After Ray Hill was revealed as a *Searchlight* mole in 1984, Relf employed his talent for obscene and violent rhetoric in a death threat. Examples of his prose style include the following (in letters to MPs, from 1978): "So you odious creep, you and that other vile White Nigger intend to persue (*sic*) relentlessly your ambition to hand over Rhodesia to your friends, the murderous Black savages of Africa . . . My only hope is that you suffer the same fate as hundreds of your enemies the Whitemen have suffered in the hands of Black savages, and that is that you have your balls and penis cut off and sewn up in your big mouth . . . The age old question is, is Judaism a race or a religion, well I can answer that, it is neither, Judaism is a cancer, and we all know the only cure for cancer is to cut it out".

Roberts, Lucy

Claiming to be a native of East Prussia, Lucy Roberts arrived from war-torn Europe in British East Africa at the end of hostilities, married a British army officer, and returned to this country. Her precise role in Germany before and during the war is not clear, but she is a regular visitor to SS memorial events in Belgium (including the annual Diksmuide fuehrerfest), and has received a silver platter in recognition of her services from former members of the notorious Langemark SS division. She worked as a translator at the Ministry of Defence, while active as a Mosleyite, League of St George member and later supporter of the Clarendon Club, the association of Mosleyite nazis that encouraged David Irving in his organisational ambitions in the early 80s (Roberts attended a Clarendon Club dinner addressed by Irving in March 1979). One of Column 88 stalwart Les Vaughan's many addresses is Lucy Roberts' home, where she has hosted a number of celebrations to mark the anniversary of Hitler's birthday.

Lucy Roberts

Rushton, Robin

The son of a prominent Mosleyite, Robin Rushton has continued his father's tradition. The millionaire owner of a large insurance firm (whose advertisements are often prominent in the *Police Review*), Rushton lives in the Channel Islands, although he also keeps a house near St Albans. He was one of the founder members of the openly nazi League of St George, set up in 1974 to promote the "Pan-European" wing of the movement, and was also involved with the Clarendon Club in its efforts to promote the political ambitions of David Irving, attending meetings with Irving in the early, 80s.

S

Short, Joe

Notorious as the man who taught occultism and Norse ritual to the "terrible trio" of violent nazis (Martin Greenslade, Alan Charman and Peter Ling), Joe Short first came to the attention of anti-fascists when he was a student in the late 60s at Cambridge, and was convicted of an arson attack on a synagogue following a meeting organised by Colin Jordan's recently-founded British Movement. His first political involvement was as the National Front's Student Organiser; subsequently he was to join the British Movement and later to found the National Democratic Freedom Movement with Eddie Morrison in Leeds. In the mid-70s he attended celebrations for Hitler's birthday at the home of Column 88's Les Vaughan, at which an altar was set up and other occultist rites practised. In 1978, he was exposed as having infiltrated a Sheffield branch of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, and, in an even more spectacular coup, he joined the Liberal Party, worked within it for three years, and was actually selected as a local government candidate in Croydon in the 1982 local elections, before being once again exposed by *Searchlight* and disowned by the Alliance parties. Two months later, he appeared at the launch of John Tyndall's British National Party. His latest manifestation is as "James C. Shortt", head of a "survivalist" group operating from his Croydon home.

Shorthouse, Arthur

One of the most dramatic examples of the "bridging" tactics of the ultra-right in the late '60s and early '70s was Arthur Shorthouse, a Birmingham fascist who was more or less simultaneously a member of the National Front, Powellight (the Enoch fan club) and the Conservative Party. He was also a British Movement electoral candidate. In 1976, he had a number of telephone conversations with *Searchlight* informant David Roberts, to whom he boasted possessing a gun, advocating the electronic bugging of the other political parties.

WHISPERS

HEAD BANGER

RAY Honeyford, the head teacher who caused so much controversy at Drummond Middle School in Bradford, has turned up in some odd company.

Latest bulletin from the anti-semitic British League of Rights announces that he will be one of the star attractions at the forthcoming conference of the Christian Affirmation Campaign, with which BLR has a longstanding and close relationship.

CAC is a twelve year old collection of right-wing fundamentalist Christians whose leader, Bernard Smith, is almost wholly preoccupied with the way the World Council of Churches uses its money, as he sees it, to finance global revolution and communism. Meeting this threat has taken Mr Smith himself into some strange company: his articles on the subject have appeared in John Tyndall's magazine *Spearhead*, at the time published in support of the National Front. And CAC's publication, *Open Eye*, has given enthusiastic plugs for the rightwards inclined New Britain Party.

The link with BLR, whose bookclub, Bloomfield Books is a source of anti-Jewish conspiracy literature, is close. BLR boss Don Martin was last year invited to set up his Bloomfield Books stall at the CAC conference and peddle his wares. CAC events are regularly publicised through CAC.

And Don Bennett (formerly Air Vice-Marshal 'Pathfinder' Bennett) has been a prominent figure in both BLR and the New Britain Party.

Reciprocally, *Open Eye* has also urged its readers to attend events organised by the British League of Rights. One of these, three years ago, featured far right 'Rhodesian' clergyman Arthur Lewis who was banned from entering the UK for several years for his support of UDI. It later transpired that his propaganda efforts were being helped along by generous donations from the South African Security Service BOSS. Interestingly, Lewis will be speaking alongside Honeyford at this year's CAC conference.

* * *

TERROR RISKS

WHY has the NF decided to fight more than 50 seats in the next general election? That's the question posed in the latest *Nationalism Today* by the party's election department chairman Graham Williamson.

There are several reasons, it appears, but the first is that "there is presently a concerted effort by our enemies to smear us as 'terrorists' . . . Unfortunately, not having any evidence . . . will not discourage the media from making such outrageous claims".

Then turn, if you will, a mere six pages further on in the same issue, to find an article entitled 'The Lunatics in our Midst', which admits that, yes, there are indeed terrorists amongst the party's members and supporters. Targets for this extraordinary attack are members of the NF December 12th Group in Kent which threatened violent reprisals by gun and bomb for the gaoling of Joe Pearce under the Race Relations Act. And they sent bomb devices to local Kent newspapers to prove their intent. Being publicly linked to such activities through December 12th's cavalier use of press releases and photographs of themselves in masks and bearing shotguns has inflicted serious damage on the party locally and brought the unwanted attentions of the police. For all this they are taken to task in *NT* by Front chairman Martin Wingfield. The leadership would clearly prefer the anonymous, middle of the night sorties so beloved by 'political soldiers'. And Wingfield's gut preference was perhaps revealed to a *Mail on Sunday* reporter who 'phoned him for a comment on the campaign of threats and house attacks being inflicted on an Asian Liberal election candidate in London. "Good", he remarked.

But going back to Williamson's 'gird your loins for the election' message, one particular point remains unanswered. Having bemoaned the fact that the election deposit has been raised to £500, Williamson announces that they will be fighting "50 plus" seats. That's £25,000. Plus the costs of campaigning. So where will it all come from?

Marbella?

North London Building Society offices?

* * *

CAUSE CELEBRE

WE always suspected that we were regarded as a bit of a bane by the fascists: though we weren't aware of the lengths to which they and their friends might go to silence us (see last issue). But it was news to us that we were such a threat to the capitalist classes as to be worthy of inclusion in Common Cause's "Far Left Guide: Directory of Organisations and Supporters". But there we are — nestling between the Revolutionary Workers' Party and the Socialist League — one of some 60 organisations currently operating in Britain which reputedly stand for "radical, egalitarian and collectivist solutions" and are devoted to principles of "uncompromising socialism". Connected to the Sinister Sixty groups, Common Cause have addended the names of the Subversive Six Hundred and Fifty, those "determined and remorseless activists" at the hardest of hard cores of the far left conspiracy. These range from well over 200 Communists, via celebrities as disparate as Michael Foot, Arthur Scargill, Neil Kinnock and Tariq Ali, to our own modest delegation of two: Gerry Gable (listed as a contributor) and Veronica Ware, (listed as our editor). Neither of their entries is presently accurate in all respects, but it's nice to feel wanted (even if Dead or Alive).

Others among our readers who wish to check up if they've been spelt right will need to fork out £10, which is going it for 33 pages, even for an outfit as devoted to the free market as Common Cause. But then — as was pointed out gleefully by the Communist newspaper *Seven Days* — Common Cause is a bit down on its financial luck pro tem, and needs all the subversives it can lay its hands on.

NEWS IN BRIEF

● NAZI FIRE BOMBER

A young woman wearing a swastika badge led a fire bomb attack on an Asian family. Dawn Powis, (17), was in a gang which threw a petrol bomb at the house of an Asian family in Walsall. There were 14 people in the house when the bomb was thrown, but fortunately no one was injured.

Powis was sentenced to 21 months youth custody. Robert Betteley, (16), for 21 months, David Cotton, (16), for eight weeks, and David Rowton, (17), for 15 months.

Rowton told the police: "We were talking about Handsworth and the fun and decided to frighten the Paki".

The attack occurred on the night of 13 September last year, shortly after the Handsworth disturbances. (*Birmingham Evening Mail* 4.4.86, 5.4.86.)

● BR SLAMS NF

British Rail has attacked the National Front for distributing leaflets and painting slogans on the walls of Waterloo Station. NF stickers which had appeared on the windows of the waiting room were taken down. Eight large painted NF signs then appeared on the outside of the room.

A British Rail spokesman said it was illegal to display such posters or paint political slogans on BR property, and that such actions were adding to the cost of running the service. (*Crosby Herald, Lancs* 13.3.86.)

● THE BITER BIT

A former member of the National Front has found his home daubed with NF slogans. Jim Merrick is a former Tory councillor, who was expelled from the party in the early 1970s for urging voters to support candidates put up by the Yorkshire Campaign to Stop Immigration group.

Vandals attacked his home in Bradford and ripped out pipes and taps as well as daubing the slogans. Thousands of pounds worth of damage was caused. Merrick denied that there was any political motivation behind the attack. (*Bradford Telegraph & Argus* 11.3.86.)

● BOOKSHOP ATTACK

Staff at a community bookshop in Peckham, South London, have been attacked by National Front thugs. The staff at The Bookplace have asked for help from local anti-fascists.

The most serious attack occurred on 8 March when five men and two women entered the shop. They attempted to steal material from the shelves and replace it with copies of *NF News*. They then physically attacked the two staff members present. The same group of people were seen earlier in Peckham Rye, selling the NF paper. (*Time Out* 19.3.86.)

● CHURCHMAN WARNS OF EVIL NF

A Christian minister has warned of the evil of the National Front. The Rev Dr Colin Marchant was speaking at the National Free Church Council Congress at Llanelli. He said that the NF had claimed in their newspaper that he was a Marxist. This wasn't true, but was because he had opposed poverty and deprivation in the inner cities.

Dr Marchant said that whenever he saw a National Front demonstration he saw evil. (*S. Wales Evening Post, Swansea* 21.3.86.)

Covering up in Bradford . . .

Racist attacks have now become so prevalent in the Bradford area that anti-fascists in the city, which has Britain's largest Asian population, are firmly convinced that there is a conspiracy of silence between the police, the City Council and the press to cover up the dimensions of the onslaught.

The anti-fascists allege that following a meeting between West Yorkshire Chief Constable, Colin Sampson, Bradford Council Chief Executive, Gordon Moore and Council Race Relations Officer, Graham Mahoney, in late March, a directive was issued that all Press questions on race issues were to be referred back to the West Yorkshire Police's Principal Press Officer, based in Wakefield.

The result, a leading Asian Youth Movement member, Anwar, told *Searchlight*, "is that repeated violence against Asian people is being concealed from public view to such an extent that young Asians no longer have any confidence in the ability of the authorities to tackle racial outrages".

There is no doubt, from evidence provided by Bradford's Campaign Against Racist Attacks (CARA), that during the past two years, which saw a sustained campaign to sack headmaster, Ray Honeyford from his post at Drummond Middle School, there has been a serious escalation of racist activity and violence.

As CARA activist, Mick James explained: "The Asian community in Bradford is now under siege by National Front-inspired gangs". CARA's own report on last October's nazi-led invasion of an Asian area of Keighley warned: "The only conclusion can be, is not whether more racial violence occurs, but when does the situation escalate into murder and retaliation".

Mick James thinks that point may soon be reached and draws attention to plans by the Conservative Party, which backed Honeyford throughout the controversy, to field him as both a speaker and canvasser in the May local elections, with Liberal mayor-elect, Kath Greenwood, as a prime target. The Liberals have consistently denounced racial attacks and opposed Honeyford.

During the run-up to the nazi assault on Lawkeholme Lane in Keighley, according to the CARA report which was commissioned by the City Council's Chief Executive and which never saw the light of day, the fascists, both NF and Tyndall's BNP, were energetically using the Honeyford affair to whip up support. Hard-line nazis from Leeds and Bradford had a high profile in the area at the time.

Despite 14 arrests, the Keighley riot was only the start. Only four days later,

Top: Asian amusement arcade wrecked by fascist-influenced youths in Bradford. Above: John Tyndall, local ex-headmaster Stanley Clayton-Gasnett and minder at Bradford BNP meeing.

a West Yorkshire NF activist and a prominent friend of Leeds-based nazi fanatic, Eddy Morrison, were seen at a Keighley town centre venue picking a team of seven men. Later that evening, following an NF gathering, there was an attempted arson attack on an Asian shop and other Asian shops were bricked.

Since then, the tide of violence has well and truly mounted, now reaching into the heart of Bradford itself. Between 7 March and 21 March, there were no fewer than a dozen reported attempts by organised racists to create serious clashes.

Asian children at the Belle Vue school have been subjected to attack after attack. The perpetrators are gangs of white youths, formerly just anti-social but now politicised by right-wing extremists. These gangs operate from the estates that form an arc round the big Asian area of Manningham Lane. One of them openly calls itself 'Rhodesway Nazis', while another, on the Schoolmore estate, has given itself the title 'Schoolmoor Whites' and is 50-strong.

Both gangs have been involved in terrorising Asian youngsters at Belle Vue. In one incident there on 11 March, a group of white youths, some wearing NF badges and armed with spanners and beer glasses, came into the school playground. They pushed children around, poured beer over the heads of female Asian pupils and generally intimidated them.

The confidence of the racists had been boosted by their achievement, four days earlier, of something they had never dared try before: an incursion into the Manningham Lane area itself. That evening, Friday 7 March, a gang of about 50 were seen swaggering through Manningham Lane. They were testing the water.

The next night, they were back, some brandishing baseball bats. At midnight, they laid seige to the Las Vegas amusement arcade often used by Asian Youth and wrecked it. Other Asian property was damaged. From then till 23 March, there was an uneasy quiet.

Then the nazis were out in force again. A gang, some of whom were later identified as members of the 'Schoolmoor Whites', set about two Asian teenagers, Mohamed Alia and Israr Khan, just round the corner from the offices of the Asian Youth Movement.

Mohamed had his wrist slashed open with a Stanley knife, causing a wound one-inch deep and one and a half inches long that narrowly missed the main vein. When, bleeding profusely, he ran to alert the AYM and his friends responded, ten of them were arrested, much to the glee of the nazis milling around up the road.

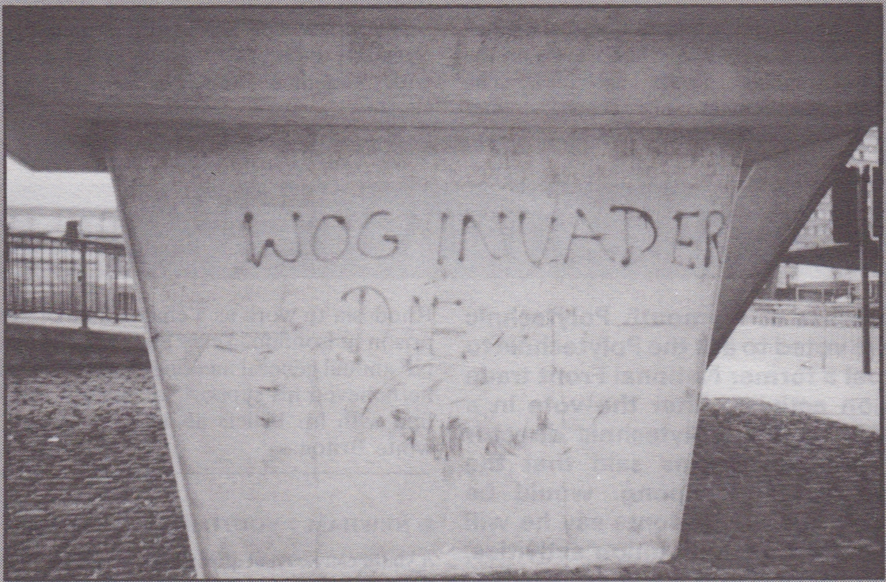
By now, the police had no choice but to act if full-scale retaliation was to be avoided. On Monday 24 March, they picked up thirteen men and charged them with public order offences. Two of these, their names handed over as part of a dossier to *Searchlight*, are known to be active National Front supporters.

As after the Keighley events, the racists were not deterred. Within hours, an arson attempt on a Sikh temple caused an estimated £100,000 damage. The police said the fire was caused by "faulty electrical wiring", but a survey by an independent electrician contradicted this. Evidence was found of a forced entry into the building and of theft from it.

When a local reporter investigated the incident, he was asked by the temple president not to report the story because "the police had asked him not to talk to journalists". The conspiracy of silence had reached full circle.

The response of both CARA and the AYM to all this has been one of entirely legitimate fury. They have had enough and their mood is perhaps best summed up by Anwar who told *Searchlight*: "The BNP are standing two candidates, John Cope and Gerry Robinson in the local elections. This will probably signal more violence. If that happens and the police continue their present stand, we shall not hesitate to take the requisite action to defend our community. We shall halt this fascist rampage . . ."

FOOTNOTE: Though Bradford's black population numbers almost 60,000 the Council has provided only £400 for anti-racist campaigns. Both CARA and the AYM are entirely voluntary organisations.



Fascist graffiti near Bradford city centre

. . . opening a can of worms in Leeds

Yorkshire has been renowned for the warmth of its welcome. A number of investigations have revealed another side — the ugly face of fascism.

Two *Yorkshire Post* journalists worked under cover in the National Front in Leeds for six months. They have revealed that the NF held regular meetings in The Whip public house, and was engaged in a hate campaign in which members were encouraged to use the "brick, the boot, and the fist". Links have been established between the NF and the gunmen of the Ulster Defence Association. The *Yorkshire Post* investigation has been submitted to the European Parliament's Committee of Enquiry into the rise of Fascism and Racism in Europe.

In Leeds, a Commission of Enquiry into racial harassment in South Leeds has been set up by the Council for Community Relations. It is headed by the Vicar of Leeds, Jim Richardson, and will employ a trained researcher. Among special areas of concern are the education system and departments of the City Council. Special concern has been voiced over the residential facilities for young people. The former head of the Whinmoor Assessment Centre, now deputy head of Shadwell Children's home, has expressed the view that black people should return to their "country of origin".

Posters and leaflets are to be banned from Leeds market under proposed new by-laws aimed at the National Front.

In the area to the south of Leeds, a local "think tank" has been set up to combat NF activity. Composed of churchmen, councillors, and voluntary workers, an anti-racist campaign is planned in Batley and Dewsbury. The campaign follows an upsurge of NF propaganda and graffiti aimed at young people. The anti-fascists plan to get sponsorship from sports clubs and musicians.

"If people don't pull their fingers out the problem will deteriorate and groups like the NF really will establish a permanent base in this area", said a spokesperson for the group.

The North Kirklees Community Relations Council has been criticised for their low key approach. Members of the Council said that Batley and Dewsbury now had wall to wall fascist graffiti. The current chairman of the CRC, Coun. George Speight, prefers the head in the sand approach. He said that the least attention drawn to the NF the better. (*The World, London* 14.3.86, *Yorkshire Post* 20.3.86, *Evening Post, Leeds* 12.3.86, *Heckmondwike Reporter* 6.3.86, 13.3.86.)

BNP school gate race propagandists fined

Four British National Party west country stalwarts bit the dust in the courts recently while two others were cleared. The men stood accused of distributing racist literature at west country school gates.

One of those convicted was local nazi boss and former election candidate David Walker, 31. He and Steven Knight, 23, were fined £400 each on charges under the Race Relations Act. Kevin Rowe, 19, and Richard Treherne, 27, were each fined £250.

The court heard that the men had targeted at least three schools.

One headmaster, Anthony Wood, refused a request from Walker to address the children in his care. Walker then insisted on handing out racist and anti-Jewish leaflets. The police were called but said they could do nothing. The Attorney General later brought charges.

The Devon education authority has issued a warning to schools to be on the alert against racist activities. The National Union of Teachers and education authorities in other parts of the country have also warned about the NF's schools campaign.

Meanwhile a Norwich headmaster has denied NF claims that the party is active in schools in the area. The Front's local branch, based at its Norwich headquarters, claimed it had received 23 enquiries about membership from schoolchildren after a recent campaign of leafleting schools. Local heads said several of the schools at which the Front claims to be active have seen neither hide nor hair of the party

In Bootle, Lancashire, local councillors have banned the NF from holding an advertised meeting on the Town Hall steps. Anger against the Front stems partly from its activities at local schools.

And local people have accused police in Preston, Lancashire, of being complacent after they did not treat daubings by nazis at a local infants' school as a serious matter. Classrooms at Deepdale infants' school were daubed with swastikas and National Front slogans.

PHEW . . . WHAT A SPONG!

Students at Plymouth Polytechnic have voted to ask the Polytechnic to expel a former National Front trade union activist. After the vote in a secret ballot, Polytechnic director Dr Michael Robins said that the student, Mark Spong, would be taught alone. Students say he will be barred from all union activities, membership and facilities.

Mark Spong, 26, was brought up in Rhodesia where his father, an ordained priest, spent several years as a prison chaplain at some of the country's most notorious prisons under Ian Smith's repressive rule.

He was recently spotted at an anti-apartheid rally in Plymouth at which a BNP member seriously assaulted a young woman in the audience and had to be dragged away by two policemen. Spong was standing at the back of the hall with a group of Young Conservatives who appeared to know him very well.

Spong is an active member of the Territorial Army in flagrant contravention of Ministry of Defence guidelines preventing fascists from being recruited.

His father, Rev Terry Spong, now a vicar in Christow near Exeter, told the press that he is not a member of the National Front. But he was reluctant to answer questions about his NF membership in the 1970s.

While on leave of absence from Rhodesia to work as a chaplain at Brixton prison in London, Terry Spong spoke at an NF annual general meeting at which he said he believed his support for the NF was in line with his beliefs as a Christian and a white Briton.

● NEWHAM 7 YOUTH ACCUSES POLICE

A youth convicted of affray in the Newham 7 case last year has accused the police of beating him up. The accusations were made in Newham West Court by Parvais Khan, who faced a breach of the peace charge. In court, Mr Khan and three witnesses said he had been attacked by police officers in the street and punched. Photographs of his bruises were produced as evidence. The police said he had fallen over. Magistrates dismissed the charge against him.

Three of the Newham 7 defendants have lost appeals against conviction at the Court of Appeal. The appeals had been lodged by brothers Parvais and Zafar Khan, and Mohammed Hanif. (*Newham Recorder* 3.4.86.)

MAY ELECTIONS

We should be grateful if readers would send us any fascist and racist election material they come across during this month's council elections. Please send items to: Reasearch Department, Searchlight, 37B New Cavendish Street, London, W1M 8JR.

Peter Turpin

Redbridge police angry at Front

Police in Redbridge, East London, have spoken out forcefully against a move by the National Front to set up local vigilante patrols.

Chief Inspector Peel appeared especially angry because the instigator of the NF operation is a former policeman, Peter Turpin. Peel said Turpin had been in the police force for a few months some years ago. He left after his political sympathies became apparent.

Turpin's bid to improve the criminal National Front's image comes as the NF has stepped up operations in the Epping and Romford areas. A top Front activist, Graham Williamson, has arrived in Havering to give the local party machine a boost.

GINA PEARCE TO STAND IN BARKING

The National Front has announced that Joe Pearce's wife, Gina, is to stand in the May council elections in Barking, home turf of the jailed nazi leader.

Mrs Pearce has been complaining to newspapers and magazines about the treatment her husband is getting in prison this time. Perhaps the Home Office read *Searchlight*'s comments about the lenient regime Pearce was enjoying (see *Searchlight* No.129) and decided it was time punishment for this little thug meant just that.

After being moved from the harsh regime of Wormwood Scrubs in London to the more liberal life of Stamford Open Prison in Kent, Pearce asked to be put in solitary confinement for his own protection.

In the Scrubs he had been forced to share a cell first with an Asian and then with a West Indian prisoner. He was also subject to a bit of rough justice from other prisoners.

But Barking NF branch does not seem to have its heart in its campaign to free Joe Pearce. The campaign survives only because of outside help and more than a fair amount of uncritical comment in the local paper.

Holidaymakers terrorised by Front

Violence erupted after the National Front arrived in the east coast resort of Yarmouth over the Easter holiday, looking for somewhere to cause trouble.

Front members rampaging around the town attacked a pop concert and some of its black performers.

On Easter Sunday Fronters sprayed tear gas and ammonia at scooter riders in town for an Easter rally. One of the rally organisers, Alan Beedham, said that around 100 NF members arrived from London and tried to disrupt the scooter clubs' peaceful reunion, which attracted nearly 10,000 people, mainly youngsters, from all parts of the country.

That evening a thirty strong mob stormed onto the stage at a local nightclub while reggae star Desmond Decker was on stage. Shouting "sieg heil", the young nazis threw bricks and other missiles.

The Front had planned marches and political demonstrations in various East Anglian towns that weekend. Clearly the NF's idea of political activity is serious disorder.

NEWS IN BRIEF

● "YOBBOS RULE"

Police in Barking have been accused of "insensitivity" in allowing a gang of chanting "yobbos" to surround an anti-fascist picket. The incident occurred during a National Front demonstration in the town. Fifteen members of the Council for Racial Equality were surrounded by the fascists for 15 minutes. Nearby police did not intervene.

Chief Superintendent Peter Denman said he was satisfied with the way the demonstration was handled. (*Barking & Dagenham Post* 19.3.86.)

● SCHOOL GATE HITLERS

The National Front are planning to leaflet pupils outside schools in Birmingham and Solihull. On sale will be their paper *New Dawn*. The first issue shows a photograph of NF supporters beating up an IRA demonstrator in London last year. Birmingham NF organiser Norman Tomkinson said the campaign was designed to boost Young National Front membership in the city.

Birmingham Labour MP Robin Corbett described the National Front supporters as "sewer rats on the fringe of politics".

Sefton Council in Liverpool has heard that the National Front have been handing out leaflets at the school gates in Bootle and Litherland. The Council is to consider legal action. (*Liverpool Echo* 25.3.86, *Birmingham Daily News* 4.4.86.)

INTERNATIONAL

SOS Racisme holds successful conference

Undaunted by the return of a Right-wing majority in the recent elections, France's most energetic anti-racist organisation SOS Racisme held a highly successful one-day conference of youth against apartheid on March 21st.

The gathering, at the UNESCO building in central Paris, was attended by over 300 youth from France, Belgium, Sweden, Norway and Switzerland, as well as small delegations from Britain and the USA.

Many delegates discussed the changed situation created by the appointment of RPR leader and personal friend of Jean-Marie Le Pen, Jacques Chirac, as Prime Minister and the emergence of Le Pen's Front national as an electoral force.

During the conference itself, at which President Mitterand's wife, Danielle, was a visitor, delegates heard speeches from eminent intellectuals and trade union representatives.

An especially moving appeal to intensify the fight against racism, both in France and South Africa, came from one of France's most celebrated paediatricians, *Professor Minkovsky*, who outlined how the brutality of apartheid had led to massively increased rates of mortality amongst black babies.

Said Professor Minkovsky: 'Side by side with luxury and the most modern medical facilities, there are little black children dying in utter misery and squalor.' He decalred that the struggle against apartheid was absolutely inseparable from the war against racism and fascism in Europe.

Another important contribution was made by Manchester Euro MP, *Glyn Ford*, who welcomed the majority vote taken in the European Assembly to stop South African coal imports. This, he stressed, should only be a start and he called for a total boycott of South African goods and a breaking of all scientific and cultural links.

Inspired by the success of the international conference, SOS has since held a meeting to set up an international federation of SOS Racism organisations and has adopted a constitution for the federation, in addition to setting up an International Bureau, based in Paris, which will lead and co-ordinate the federation's work.

● Labour Euro-MP for Derbyshire and Ashfield, Geoff Hoon, has told members of the Labour Party, throughout his constituency, that 'extreme right-wing groups, though small in membership, cannot be ignored.'

Mr Hoon was commenting in his newsletter, 'Red Rose', on the Euro-Parliament's Committee of Inquiry into the Rise of Racism and Fascism, whose report stated: 'It would be hard to exaggerate the importance of the rise of racism in Europe'.

Says the Euro-MP: 'Anyone reading the evidence cannot fail to conclude that racism and fascism have to be confronted. 'Echoing the report, he argues for new tough laws to make racism illegal and for sweeping changes in the education system to promote non-discrimination.

Importantly, Mr Hoon also urges that funds be made available from the EEC to help finance broad-based, non sectarian anti-rascist movements like SOS Racisme in France, a demand already advanced by Manchester Euro-MP, Glyn Ford, who participated in the Committee of Inquiry.

Manchester Euro-MP Glyn Ford speaking at SOS Racism conference

Le Pen writes agenda

The more last month's French General Election results are examined the worse they appear. The near meteoric rise of the fascist Front National is arguably the most significant development of fascism in Europe since Adolf Hitler's would-be Thousand Year Reich bit the dust in 1945. The analysis projected by *Searchlight* in recent months has been starkly, and sadly, confirmed.

In all, the FN polled a shocking *2,705,838* votes, almost 10 per cent. This figure has enabled 34 fascist MPs to take their seats in the august chamber of the National Assembly, headed by their leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen.

The scale of the FN's growth can be measured, in part, by a comparison with the decline of the French Communist Party (PCF), which, forty years ago, was the country's biggest political party. Then, the PCF won 28 per cent of the vote. In March, it got less than 10 per cent, with only 20,000 more votes than the fascists nationally.

Scrutiny of the results reveals the extent to which Le Pen's party has put itself on the French political map with the support of whole layers of the urban working class, whose votes were hitherto thought the preserve of the PCF.

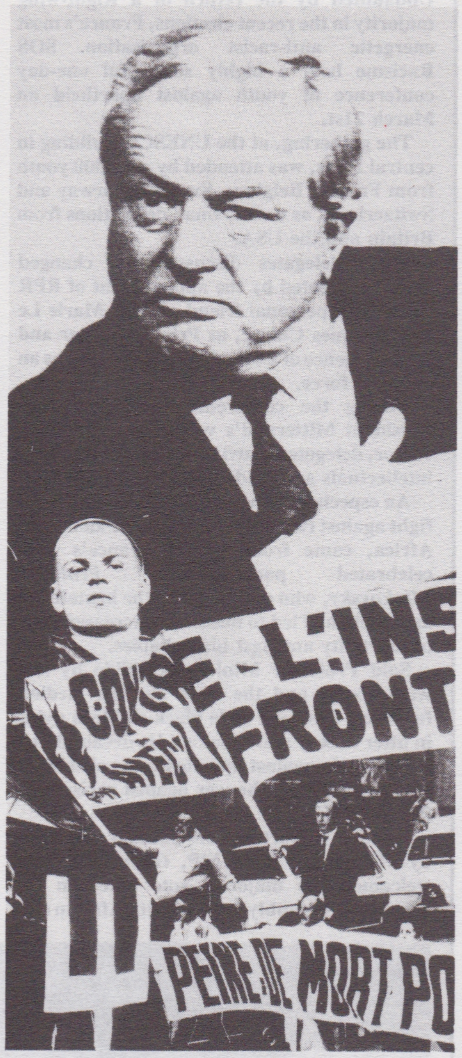
To take some examples we can look at the comparative votes in areas that were previously the bastions of the PCF:

	PCF	FN
SEINE-ST. DENIS	**91,926**	**71,534**
NORD	**180,445**	**145,452**
PAS-DE-CALAIS	**126,272**	**59,745**
SOMME	**42,961**	**23,827**
MEURTHE	**34,320**	**33,926**

Thus have the fascists made inroads into the vote of the party which led the Resistance to the nazi invaders in World War Two. And, if these results seem worrying, then some of the spectacular votes for the FN in the south are positively horrific. In the Marseille area, for instance, the Front took 22.5 per cent of the vote to win four seats (Mitterrand's Socialists only won five!).

While it would be unwise for anti-fascists to exaggerate these results — the fascists are *not* about to take power — it would be suicidal to underestimate them because, like it or not, the fascists are now a force to be reckoned with in French, and indeed, European politics. As leading French anti-racist, Harlem Désir, put it" *"The rise of the FN will set a whole new political agenda in Western Europe"*.

And, contrary to the excuses being made in some quarters with reference to proportional representation 'letting Le Pen



in', French anti-fascists believe that, even in the previous two round voting system, the FN would still have gained enough seats to form a parliamentary group because the size of its vote would have forced the traditional right-wing parties, the RPR and the UDF, to do deals with it.

So, what sort of fascists are the FN? Firstly, with their 65,000 members they ran a highly sophisticated and professional campaign around slogans like: 'Yes to work for young French people means No to immigration!' and 'Resist Marxism in our schools!'. For the most part, secondly, their candidates were eminently respectable non-torturers of Algerians . . . unlike Le Pen himself.

Nevertheless, Pierre Sergent was sentenced to death for his involvement with the terrorist OAS during the early 1960s and Roland Gaucher was leader of a pro-Nazi collaborationist youth movement during World War II.

The rest of their MPs seem to have clean sheets where violence is concerned, but do have other oddities: one, Pierre Ceyrac, is a Moonie and another, Charles de Chambrun, was, almost unbelievably, a member of the committee of Honour of the anti-racist movement, MRAP, until they booted him out in February.

Despite this apparently simon-pure face, immigrants at the sharp end of Front thuggery are under no illusions that street action is an important ingredient of its politics. Already, the Front has established a formidable reputation for violence and murder:

- Sept. 1984 — a young Spaniard was wounded badly in the eye by FN fly-poster.
- Oct. 1984 — Alain Barthes, an FN leader shot and wounded an injured car driver who had rung his doorbell to ask for help.
- Jan. 1985 — Marcel Chivat, an FN candidate, attacked an old couple in their home.
- Feb. 1985 — Michel Fleurus, an FN candidate, was charged with assault and grievous bodily harm.
- Feb. 1985 — Serge Lopez, FN leader in Beziers bombed the home of an immigrant family.
- April 1985 — Pierre Soraire and Marc Mazure, both FN members, were convicted of carrying hand-grenades at a political meeting.
- July 1985 — Jean-Pierre Chatelain, the FN's security officer in Savoy was convicted with three other FN members of blowing a cafe to pieces.
- Nov. 1985 — an army sergeant settled a political argument by hurling a hand-grenade at his opponents' car.

These instances form only part of a big inventory of FN action, which culminated tragically with the brutal murder of a Socialist Party member in Yvelines by an FN member — a serving soldier — during the election campaign. Moreover, during last year at least eighteen immigrants were killed in racist attacks. Behind them lay the pervasive anti-immigrant propaganda and atmosphere generated by the Front National.

In line with its view that the FN's successes mark a turning point, France's main campaigning anti-racist organisations, SOS Racisme, will be stepping up its efforts to mobilise opposition to the fascist groundswell. In the coming months, SOS hopes to build strong committees in every major town, especially amongst Arab, Jewish and black youth. They know all too well what the price of failure could be. It is time that the PCF and the Socialist Party dwelt on that theme and got down to launching a massive anti-fascist offensive. It has to be admitted, the signs for that don't look too good.

INTERNATIONAL ROUND-UP

AUSTRIA

Former UN Secretary-General accused of war crimes

Controversy is raging over recent allegations that Dr Kurt Waldheim, a candidate in the Austrian presidential election and former UN Secretary-General, was involved in war crimes during the Second World War.

His army service record, obtained by the World Jewish Congress and publicised by the *New York Times*, describes Waldheim as a member of a nazi students, union and the stormtroops(SA) before serving in Yugoslavia and Greece on the staff of General Alexander Lohr between 1942 and 1944. Lohr was executed in 1947 for war crimes and during the period that Waldheim was on his staff, directed the repression of Yugoslav partisans and the deportation of over 40,000 Greek Jews to death camps.

Waldhelm, whose autobiography gave the impression he had been discharged from active service in early 1942, has described the record of his student union and SA membership as inaccurate and has stated that his work for General Lohr only involved translating. Subsequent documents released by the World Jewish Congress describe him however as an intelligence officer responsible for daily briefings on resistance to the German forces.

The controversy has deepened with claims in a Yugoslav newspaper that Waldheim's extradition from Austria had been sought in 1947 by the Yugoslav Government to face charges as a fugitive war ciminal.

AUSTRALIA

Bomb injures 22

Police in Melbourne are searching for the perpetrator of a car bombing outside Victoria state police headquarters that injured 22 people, all of them police officers. They are reportedly looking into possible connections between the attack and a neo-nazi group, one of whose leaders, Thomas Messenger, was killed in a gunfight with local police last year.

SWEDEN

Hate campaign against dead PM

A former member of the ultra-rightist European Labour Party has been released after being held on suspicion of involvement in the assassination of Sweden's Socialist Prime Minister Olaf Palme. The man, Ake Lennart Viktor Gunnarson, has announced his intention to sue a number of newspapers for defamation.

The European Labour Party, part of former Trotskyist Lyndon LaRouche's international organisation, waged a campaign against Palme as part of their general attack on a supposed conspiracy involving the Soviet Union, Israel and the British Royal Family. Amongst other things, they accused him of being "a homosexual drug pusher". Police are also investigating a claim of responsibility for Palme's 'execution' made in the name of the European National-Socialist Union.

Identikit picture of man wanted by Swedish police

NETHERLANDS

Arrests at rally

Over 70 people were arrested following clashes between anti-fascists and supporters of the racist Centre Party at Leerdam. In the incident the hotel in which the Centre Party was meeting was set on fire.

SWITZERLAND

Racist gains

Heavily empahasising its anti-immigrant stance, the ultra-rightist National Action party has gained 21 seats in recent local elections.

YUGOSLAVIA

War crime trial follows extradition

Andrija Artukovic, former Interior Minister in wartime Croatia, is to stand trial in Yugoslavia for the mass murder of Jews, Serbs and gypsies. Artukovic, aged 86, was recently extradited from the United States where he has lived since shortly after the end of the war.

SOUTH AFRICA

Far right in talks with Conservative

Discussions have recently taken place between the rightist Conservative party and Eugene Terre'blanche's extremist Afrikaaner Resistance Movement. In a press statement, the Conservative leader, Andreis Treurnicht, announced that the talks concerned the bringing together of all the right-wing forces in the country.

USA

Extremists run for election

American politician Adlai Stevenson III is refusing to run as Democratic candidate for governor of Illinois after two supporters of Lyndon LaRouche's National Democratic Policy Committee succeeded in getting onto the official slate.

Running in Democratric party primary elections on a platform that included support for Star Wars and the compulsory quarantining of AIDS victims, the two La Rouchians were voted onto the official slate as prospective candidates for lieuenant governor and secretary of state.

Stevenson, describing his two fellow-candidates as 'bizarre and dangerous extremists' has gone to court to obtain permission to run as an independent on a slate of mainstream Democrats.

LaRouchians are running for election in almost 30 states (in California on both democratic and Republican slates) and Democratic officials are now publicising the identity of extremist candidates in order to ensure that the freak result in Illinois, partly attributable to voter apathy, does not recur.

carf CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM & FASCISM

CARF was previously an independent paper which grew out of the confederation of London's anti racist/anti-fascist groups. CARF (now produced by a Collective) since December 1979 has had a monthly section in *Searchlight* in which important matters in the anti-racist fight are analysed and discussed.

Handsworth: "A different reality"

When black people battled with police on the streets of Birmingham last September, they did so in response to mounting police harassment and the injustices of poverty and discrimination. Over seven months later and oppressive policing is still the chief concern of the black community. Unemployment, deprivation and homelessness are permanent fixtures.

Dear Report enrages community

The deterioration of police/community relations was compounded last November when the Chief Constable of West Midlands, Geoffrey Dear, published his report on the Handsworth/Lozells disturbances. The report was given a hostile reception by the people of Handsworth — the Chief Constable's extraordinary 'analysis' of the 'riots' was dismissed as a whitewash and his views on tackling such disturbances served only to reinforce anti-police feeling within the community.

According to Dear, the 'riot' was the work of criminals — drug dealers who feared that they would be put out of business by the activities of the drug squad. He astounded the people of Handsworth when he claimed in the report that police/community relations had been good before and after the disturbances.

It was, however, Dear's views on the use of potentially lethal plastic bullets that most aggravated the community's hostility towards the police. He provoked widespread criticism when he claimed that the use of plastic bullets "would have been justified in the Lozells Road area on the night of 9/10 September". Furthermore, he drastically played down the serious arguments against the future use of plastic bullets, preferring instead to reflect on their "effectiveness" and "accuracy".

Recent visits to Handsworth by CARF found that tension within the black community had noticeably grown since the publication of Geoffrey Dear's report. Asian and Afro-Caribbean people in the area are convinced that the report points to an even more repressive and brutal style of policing. They are adamant that police deployment of plastic bullets would produce horrific consequences in which innocent people would be murdered and maimed.

On 28 February this year a number of community organisations in Birmingham, including black groups in Handsworth, issued a series of demands to Home Secretary Douglas Hurd to coincide with his visit to the city that day. On the question of the threatened deployment of plastic bullets in Handsworth, the organisations demanded that "the Home Secretary must not issue plastic bullets . . as it will only aggravate the situation".

The publication this February of the findings of two independent inquiries into the Handsworth disturbances established varying degrees of support for the community's criticisms of the Chief Constable's report.

'A Different Reality'

The City of Birmingham 'Independent Inquiry into the Handsworth Disturbances' published its findings in a report by former Labour MP for Birmingham Erdington, Julius Silverman. Silverman contradicts the fundamentals of the Dear 'analysis' — criminality, anti-police behaviour and so on — and questions his theory that drug dealers conspired to start the 'riot'. Silverman also challenges Dear's view that the deployment of plastic bullets would have been justified during the disturbances — "I cannot see at what stage they could have been profitably used", he comments.

An even harder hitting criticism of the Dear report is presented in *A Different Reality* — a perceptive and realistic "account of Black people's experiences and their grievances before and after the Handsworth Rebellions". Sponsored by the recently abolished West Midlands County Council, the report criticises Dear for failing to acknowledge "the legacy of ill feeling" which is a feature of police/community relations in Handsworth. It identifies a deep flaw in Dear's 'drug conspiracy' argument: "Dear stresses drugs and drug related criminality in his version of the riot's origins. Yet this factor was not mentioned in the earlier Home Office report either as an important element in Handsworth's policing problems or as a likely future cause of friction between the police and the local public". The report states: "The link between drugs and the disturbances which forms the backbone of Dear's report is emphatically rejected by the majority of groups and individuals who spoke to this review".

Policing in Handsworth since the uprising

The community's interpretation of police activity in Handsworth since the uprising is more or less summed up in the words of one person who gave evidence to the report: "The police were hell-bent on getting their revenge. For weeks after the rebellion they were rounding-up people in search of those supposed to be involved in the rebellion".

The Afro-Caribbean and Asian communities in Handsworth allege widespread police harassment, false arrest, verbal abuse and brutality. They are convinced that police tactics in Handsworth are geared towards 'avenging' the uprising. Bini Brown of the African Caribbean Self-Help Organisation agrees that "there is an atmosphere of revenge on the part of the police". He identifies an escalation of police harassment and an overall campaign of repression targeting young black people in particular. "The policing is going to get heavier and heavier — there is no question about it".

According to police figures, some 420 people had been arrested by 1 November last year for offences relating to the 'riot'. A total of 380 prisoners were charged, the majority of whom were aged between 17 and 26. CARF has been unable to obtain more recent police figures — after contacting the Birmingham headquarters of West Midlands police, we were referred to Handsworth's Thornhill Road police

station where we were told that such statistics were unavailable. According to one source, however, over 1,000 people have been arrested to date for a variety of offences relating to the uprising. The majority of arrests have targeted the Afro-Caribbean community, though a considerable number of Asian and white people have also been detained and charged by the police.

One young Afro-Caribbean woman told CARF of the harrowing experience that she and her family endured when police raided her home and arrested her brother. She explained how she and her mother had arrived home to find "the front door battered down, the living room door smashed open and everything upside down". Unknown to the family at the time, the police had arrested the young man in connection with the recent disturbances in the area. "We didn't know anything about his whereabouts, we couldn't find him anywhere. In the end my mum got in touch with a community worker . . . one evening we had a phone call saying that my brother was in a police station in Erdington, some miles away from here".

Her brother was subsequently convicted of burglary and possession of an air pistol, for which he was sentenced to 16 months imprisonment. His family are distraught and angered for they are convinced that he is innocent. His sister, however, is aware that many more black families are experiencing the same sense of injustice. "Everyday you hear of somebody who gets locked up. There is no justice whatsoever".

According to the Birmingham Asian Youth Movement (AYM) a considerable number of young Asian people have also been subjected to indiscriminate arrest, detention and 'frame-ups'. The December edition of *Asian Youth News*, the organ of the AYM, cites the case of two teenage brothers who were arrested for burglary. "Their house was searched in the early morning, their father pushed around and the youths threatened. No goods were found on the premises".

In order to counter police attacks on the community Afro-Caribbean and Asian people have been working together in the Handsworth Defence Campaign (HDC).

Community resistance grows

The Campaign's activities include generating publicity and support for those arrested and charged in connection with the uprising and organising pickets of courts where people are being tried.

If the Handsworth Defence Campaign is indicative of black resistance in Handsworth, it is also symbolic of black unity in the area. The relationship between the Afro-Caribbean and Asian communities in Handsworth is increasingly one of solidarity, though there is evidence to suggest that the police have been making a concerted effort to divide the two communities. According to an Asian community worker in Handsworth, the police have been trying to establish a rapport with the more affluent sections of the Asian community, particularly the shop-owners. "They visit Asian shop-keepers and ask them if they are getting any trouble from West Indian youth. The police also try to organise liaison meetings with Asian businessmen".

Avtar Singh Jouhl, General Secretary of the Indian Workers' Association (GB), points out that it would be to the advantage of the police if they managed to "incite hatred" between Afro-Caribbeans and Asian people in Handsworth. Bini Brown, however, is satisfied that the police have been unable and will always be unable to "create tension" between the two communities.

The people of Handsworth also refer with distrust to the attempts by the police to recruit black people. Earlier this year West Midlands police announced a £60,000 campaign to attract 'ethnic minorities' into the force. Bini Brown identifies the recruitment drive as one half of the "soft and hard approach" which he sees as being the future of policing in Handsworth.

Black activists such as Bini have little hope for the restoration of police/community relations in Handsworth. With the looming threat of plastic bullets and escalating police harassment, Afro-Caribbean and Asian people are more concerned with defending the black community from police attack. A joint statement from numerous black organisations in Handsworth published in the report *A Different Reality* warned: "Violent resistance is now permanently on the agenda while the oppression and the denial of rights and resources continue".

HANDSWORTH RALLIES TO BABA'S DEFENCE

On 14 May, the case of Baba Bakhtaura, a popular figure in Handsworth threatened with deportation, will be heard in the House of Lords. Baba is highly regarded by the people of Handsworth. He is an outstanding musician and a religious leader, and has frequently contributed his services to social and charitable functions in the area, as well as performing at numerous fund-raising and religious events throughout Britain.

Baba Bakhtaura came to Britain in 1979 and was granted an extension of leave by the Home Office. However, the extension expired in November of that year and in June 1982 Baba was arrested and charged with 'overstaying'. The court gaoled him and recommended that he be deported after serving his two month sentence. Baba appealed to the Crown Court and the recommendation was lifted. Furthermore, when the Home Office attempted to deport Baba in 1983, the High Court ruled that this was wrong. The High Court stated that the Home Office should not have considered deporting Baba without acknowledging the contribution that he made to the community.

The High Court decision was clearly a reflection of the massive support that Baba had received from the people of Handsworth, but any hope of a reprieve was shattered in December 1984 when the Court of Appeal ruled in favour of the Home Office. Baba has appealed to the House of Lords to overrule this decision.

The Baba Bakhtaura Defence Campaign is now reaching a crucial stage — a recent demonstration in Handsworth clearly illustrated the overwhelming support that Baba is attracting from the community. Over 500 people marched through Handsworth demanding, 'Baba Bakhtaura Must Stay — Deportation No Way'. The demonstration was supported by anti-deportation campaigns from London, Manchester, Leeds and other areas of Britain. The Defence Campaign points out that the deportation of Baba would serve no useful purpose but to anger and further alienate the community at a time when life in Handsworth has been particularly difficult.

The Campaign has been encouraged by the recent decision of the Immigration Appeals Tribunal to overturn a threat to deport Handsworth community worker, Muhammad Idrish. This case is viewed with particular interest because it was Muhammad's valuable work in Handsworth and the substantial support that he received from the community that convinced the Tribunal that he should be allowed to remain in Britain.

The Birmingham Asian Youth Movement, which has played a dynamic role in the Baba Bakhtaura Defence Campaign, points out that there is also "a very strong case for allowing Baba to stay in this country. His contribution to the cultural and social life of the Asian community in Handsworth is immense".

Contact the Baba Bakhtaura Defence Campaign, c/o 101 Villa Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B19.

MPs' intervention limited

Imagine a 20-year-old Indian, in the queue for 'non-UK passport holders' at Heathrow. Just landed in Britain. Has heard all about it from his sister, whom he hasn't seen since she left home three years ago to come here and marry. Now she's got a kid! She'll be waiting for him. She'll have changed. Wonder what her husband's like? Carrying all the presents, mementoes of home, foodstuffs, to give her.

Getting nervous — only three in front of him now. White. Rich. Loaded with cameras. The official seemed alright — glancing at passports, one or two questions, stamping them, good day sir!

This way please, Mr Singh. We have some questions for you. Sitting in a small room, feeling forgotten in the bustle of the airport. Then the official — a different man, surely — it couldn't be the same one who was smiling and wishing people good day? He looked the same, but different. Suspicious. Frowning.

"What's the purpose of your visit?"

"Just to see my sister — I haven't seen her for three years. And to see the sights".

"Expensive trip, isn't it? For how long?"

"Well — about a month, perhaps six weeks . . ."

"I see, you've got an open return, hmm? Valid for a year, isn't it? And you're not sure how long you're staying? What's your job?"

"I help my father with his business. He has a shop . . ."

"So, no income of your own? Brought documents? Your father's accounts? Who paid for your ticket?"

"My sister and her husband sent some of the money. My father paid the rest. You see, my sister hasn't seen any of the family since she came —"

"So why do you come, and not your father? Or why doesn't your sister go home and see you?"

And so on and on.

"I'm sorry Mr Singh, I'm not satisfied that you are seeking entry as a genuine visitor for the period stated by you. I therefore refuse you entry. You will be removed from the UK as soon as arrangements can be made. You have the right to appeal against this decision, exercisable only from abroad.

"I have informed your sister, who is waiting outside, of my decision. She has exercised her right of contacting her MP who may be speaking to me about your case. You will be held in custody. Come along please".

Thousands of visits to Britain begin and end in this way — in the airport or Harmondsworth Detention Centre. Young men from the Indian subcontinent are refused entry as visitors almost as a matter of course. They are suspected of wanting to live in Britain, which automatically makes them ineligible for entry. According to the Court of Appeal, in a case in February, the Immigration Officer need not have any definite reasons for his suspicion. His decision to refuse entry cannot be challenged in court. A would-be visitor only has the right of appeal if he has been sent home.

In Parliament, MPs of all parties have voted time and again for racist immigration legislation. But in the last fifteen years, community groups, black and anti-racist, have through vigorous campaigning forced those self-same MPs to take up cases of deportation and removal and intervene. The full rigour of the laws and of the practices of immigration officers has been mitigated by the increasing use of MPs to stop removals of people refused entry, while further investigation of their cases is carried out by the Home Office. The interventions of MPs has obliged immigration officers to justify their decisions and, in the majority of cases, to release the person concerned on 'temporary admission' during the period of investigation.

Now those gains, fought for so long and hard, are being wiped away by the government. Last autumn David Waddington began a campaign to discredit those MPs who are the most responsive to requests for intervention. He accused a number of MPs of "abusing their position" and colluding with dishonest attempts to evade immigration laws. Then, in February, guidelines were introduced severely restricting MPs' interventions to stop removals. After a chorus of disapproval they were amended, and passed through Parliament in March. They meant that from now on only constituency MPs can stop removals; and there is a strict time limit on intervention. These guidelines make it very easy for MPs to resist community pressure simply by being 'unavailable'. As for those persons detained whose relatives are constituents of an unsympathetic MP, they will have no recourse to this protection for their basic rights.

"IN THE EYE OF THE NEEDLE"

In November 1985, severe criticism was made of the Greater London Arts (the regional arts funding body for London) for its institutionalised racism. The one black member of staff — appointed to cater for Black Arts and Equal Opportunities — resigned, and four more staff followed her out in sympathy. GLA was forced by the strength of opinion among Black artists to commission an independent enquiry into institutionalised racism within the organisation. On 24 March, *In the Eye of the Needle* made public the enquiry's findings.

"Racism can be proven to exist at every level of GLA", states the report, and it has "been further compounded by bad management practices and procedures". What is interesting, however, is that the enquiry found that racism could not be tackled in isolation from the defects in structure and management of the whole organisation. "Racism reflects more profound ills: a lack of democracy, a lack of accountability and a lack of responsiveness within the organisation".

What is even more startling is that the enquiry team, headed by A. Sivanandan (Director of the Institute of Race Relations), does not advocate predictable remedies such as racism awareness training or Equal Opportunities policies. The report argues strongly that such solutions are partial and piece-meal — why racism or the participation of black people in an organisation cannot be cordoned off through specialist provision or tokenist treatment.

The philosophy provided by *In the Eye of the Needle* is not just important for arts funding bodies, but can provide a way of fighting racism in other voluntary organisations. "The solution to institutionalised racism", concludes the report, "is not to be sought in providing niches for black people within a racist system but to root out racism from the system itself so as to provide room for an organic black presence. For if anti-racism is about anything, it is about breaking down hierarchies, traditional methods of working, of relating to people, of becoming more broad-based in representation and concerns. The challenge of racism, in a word, is a challenge to democracy". Can GLA meet the challenge?

In the Eye of the Needle is available from Greater London Arts, 25 Tavistock Place, WC1.

carf CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM & FASCISM

area round-up

A monthly non-evaluative account of racist activity drawn from the IRR's press cuttings of national and local newspapers.

RACIAL ATTACKS

Skinheads attack Asian party

A gang of six skinheads armed with broken bottles and an iron bar launched an unprovoked attack on an Asian party in Southall. The skinheads had spent an evening drinking in a local pub before they noticed the party at a nearby flat. By the time the police arrived, there was a horrifying scene of broken glass and blood. The gang have all been charged with riotous assembly, making an affray, conspiracy to cause actual bodily harm and having offensive weapons (*Southall Gazette* 14.3.86).

NF harasses Islington tenants

There has been a marked increase in racial harassment on Islington's housing estates because of the activities of the NF during the run up to the May council elections. Local race relations officers have asked the police to keep a close watch on four Finsbury estates. Over a recent two-month period, 24 tenants complained of physical abuse, racist taunts and threats or damage to their property. Home beat police officers have been instructed to be especially vigilant and council lawyers are considering evicting racist tenants (*Islington Gazette* 21.3.86).

Teachers refuse to teach racist pupils

Three pupils at a comprehensive school on the Isle of Dogs, east London, have been allowed to return to lessons after completing a week's suspension for allegedly subjecting an Asian maths teacher to a torrent of racial abuse. But staff voted unanimously not to teach the boys and later staged a walk out. The school's NUT representative said the teachers' stand was a protest over the growing 'racial terror' in the borough's schools (*Daily Mail* 18.3.86).

EMPLOYMENT

Teacher's claim against school rejected

A 48-year-old Asian teacher lost her case before an industrial tribunal in Leicester and was ordered to pay half the respondent's costs. Mrs Rosemary Sivasothy claimed that the headmaster, deputy head and governors of the English Martyrs school had constantly overlooked her for promotion because of her colour. She had taught at the school for over ten years (*Daily Telegraph* 15.3.86).

'Racial discrimination' in fire brigade

Statisticians from the Greater London Council have examined the pass and fail rates of white and black applicants for the London fire service and found the results 'statistically inexplicable'. A remarkable discrepancy exists between the success rates of black and white hopefuls. Candidates with identical educational attainments are not achieving identical success rates and now a leading QC has advised that the tests are discriminatory. The GLC has written to the Fire Brigades Union seeking their help in redressing the balance (*City Limits* 14.3.86).

POLICE

Warning to police

Leaders of Luton's Asian community are warning the police that they will have an explosive situation on their hands if they continue their current level of harassment. In a letter to the chief constable, the Asian Defence Committee condemned the scale of arrests and searches of homes, which were often undertaken at the behest of foreign governments. In many cases, people have been picked up at their place of work, held for long hours but no charges are brought (*Asian Times* 21.3.86).

Diplomat's nephew may sue police

Hughgene Wilson, a nephew of the Jamaican Deputy High Commissioner, is considering suing the police following his acquittal on charges of drug dealing and assaulting the police during a raid on a club in Notting Hill Gate, west London. Mr Wilson, who suffered a cracked rib during the arrest, said he was grabbed by the throat and the genitals and someone put a hand over his mouth. He was then thrown into a police van where he was kicked. In court, he denied possessing drugs with intent to supply and also biting a police officer (*Kensington News & Post* 20.3.86).

A 'superb' year for Haringey

Despite the 'low point' of the Tottenham 'riots', 1985 was a superb year for law and order in Haringey, according to Neighbourhood Watch scheme co-ordinator Jonathan Rosenthal. Seventy-six such schemes now operate in Haringey and Mr Rosenthal says the architect of the success is Chief Superintendent Colin Crouch (*Hornsey Journal* 14.3.86). But a youth leader from Tottenham's Broadwater Farm estate told the inquiry team set up by Haringey Council that attempts to establish good relations between the police and black youth had been undermined by beat officers before the disturbances. Mr Stafford Scott said repeated efforts to explain the situation of black youths to the police had failed, and an open invitation for the police to come to the youth association's club had only resulted in two officers kicking down the door and standing with their hands on their truncheons looking aggressive (*Guardian* 15.3.86).

'Unlawful killing'

A chief inspector is among seven policemen who have been suspended from duty following the 'unlawful killing' of black Hells Angel, John Mikkleson. The jury at a nine-day hearing at Hammersmith Coroner's Court in west London decided that John Mikkleson's death was "manslaughter due to the lack of care given to him when he was overpowered". John Mikkleson died in July 1985 when he choked on his vomit after he was taken to Hounslow police station on suspicion of driving a stolen vehicle. The jury heard that he was beaten unconscious by truncheon-wielding police and left lying on the police station floor for over half an hour before an ambulance was called. The seven suspended policemen must now wait for the Director of Public Prosecutions to decide whether they will be charged (*Kensington News & Post* 3.4.86).

Secret police committee papers stolen

Confidential papers criticising the use of firearms by West Midlands police have been stolen from the home of Cllr. George Law, a leading member of the local police committee. The documents include a report highlighting individual cases during the past ten years where firearms have been used by the police. The papers were stolen during a burglary at the councillor's home, but the only other thing taken was a jar of pennies (*Birmingham Evening Mail* 8.3.86).

HOUSING

Housing policies 'racist'

In a written memorandum to the House of Commons Home Affairs, Race Relations and Immigration sub-committee, the Federation of Bangladeshi Associations has accused five London boroughs of racism in their housing allocation policies. The Federation claims that Bangladeshis were allocated old homes in bad areas and not on new estates. Bangladeshis suffer very high rates of unemployment and are often the victims of racist attacks, arson and harassment. The memorandum calls for more Bangladeshi-speaking social workers and a policy of positive discrimination by central and local government to employ more Bangladeshis (*Daily Telegraph* 4.3.86).

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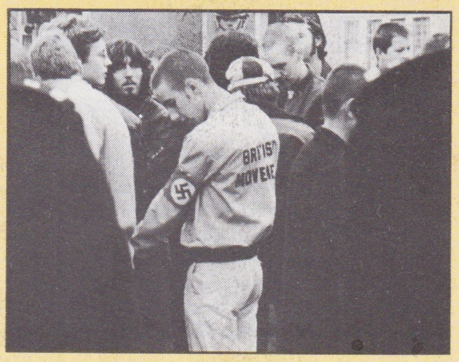

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Our role in exposing these, and other trends, has been unique — but it has led to demands being made upon our resources which are increasingly difficult to meet.

Anti-racist campaigners, journalists and academics all turn to *Searchlight* as their first port of call when they need to know something about the racists and extremists.

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